AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor;

a framer controlled by the processor;

a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing a first set of configuration information and a second set of configuration information, the first set to configure the framer to communicate across a communication network using a first networking protocol, the second set of configuration information to configure the framer to communicate across a communication network using a second networking protocol; and

an interface module having a network interface and to detect a <u>voltage at an unused contact to identify</u> a networking protocol for which the apparatus should be configured.

2.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the interface module comprises:

a connector to couple the framer to the communication network, the connector having a plurality of contacts, a first contact of the plurality grounded;

a resistor coupled between a power supply and a second contact of the connector; and

a detector coupled to the second contact to detect a voltage at the second contact, the detector driving a selection between the first set of configuration information and the second set of configuration information.

3.   (Previously Amended) A system comprising:

a first networking device operating in a first networking protocol;

a cable having an RJ-48 connector at a first end and a BNC connector at an opposing end, the cable coupled to the first networking device;

a second networking device coupled to the cable, the second networking device automatically identifying from the cable the first networking protocol and driving itself into the first networking protocol.

4.   (Previously Amended) A system comprising:

a first networking device operating in a first networking protocol;

a cable coupled to the first networking device;

a second networking device coupled to the cable, the second networking device automatically identifying from the cable the first networking protocol and driving itself into the first networking protocol; and

wherein the cable has a connector at each end, the connector having a plurality of unused contacts, and wherein the second networking device has a power supply coupled through a resistor to at least one unused contact when the cable is coupled to the second device.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the second networking device comprises:

a network interface module that identifies the cable protocol.

6.   (Previously Amended) The system of claim 7 wherein the detector signals a software switch which selects a first set of configuration data to configure the device in a first protocol if the voltage is at the predetermined level and selects a second set of configuration data to configure the device in a second protocol if the voltage is not at the predetermined level.

7.   (Original) The system of claim 4 wherein the second networking device comprises:

a detector to identify if a voltage at the cable side of the resistor is at a predetermined level.

8.   ——(Canceled).—

9.   (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

coupling a pair of networking devices together with a cable;

detecting in a first device of the pair from the cable a mode of the second device by ~~watching~~ monitoring an unused contact of a cable connector for a predetermined voltage level; and

driving the first device into the ~~protocol~~ mode detected.

10.   (Canceled).

11.   (Canceled).